

Fur Harvester License

All persons who hunt and trap furbearing animals, including those who trap or hunt on their own enclosed farmland or private property, must have a valid fur harvester license. This license allows you to hunt fox, bobcat, coyote or raccoon, and trap badger, bobcat, fisher, marten, fox, coyote, weasel, mink, raccoon, muskrat, beaver, otter, skunk or opossum.

Exception: See footnotes 1 and 6, page 41.

A person may trap at any age but must possess a valid fur harvester license. This license does not authorize a person under age 10 to possess a firearm while trapping. A Junior Resident Fur Harvester-Trap Only license is available to youths without Hunter Safety training.

Nonresident Fur Harvester License

Nonresidents may hunt and trap furbearing animals only from Nov. 15 through the regular season closing dates. A nonresident cannot purchase a license before Nov. 15. Residents of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the province of Ontario, Canada, cannot purchase a Michigan nonresident fur harvester license.

Furbearer Kill Tags

A person who intends to harvest bobcat, otter, fisher or marten must request and shall be issued free kill tags for these species. These tags are available Sept. 15 through the last day of the hunting and trapping season for that furbearer. Kill tags will be available from license agents or by contacting any DNR Operations Service Center (see page 48). A person who kills a bobcat, otter, fisher or marten shall immediately validate the tag and attach the tag to the hide from the upper jaw to the eye socket or through the lower jaw. Persons under eight years of age may not obtain a kill tag for bobcat, otter, fisher or marten.

Because of the change in stock for the new license year beginning March 1, 2008, otter tags for 2007-2008 will be available only from Sept. 15, 2007 to March 1, 2008. After March 1, individuals who have not obtained their '07-'08 otter kill tags should contact a DNR Operations Service Center to request tags.

Live Traps

As a substitute for foothold traps, trappers may use live traps capable of taking only one animal at a time within 450 feet of an occupied dwelling and associated buildings during the legal time for trapping the target animal. Live traps must be checked daily. Any animal captured in a live trap must be immediately killed or released; it is illegal to take these game animals or protected animals live from the wild. It also is illegal to hold these animals in captivity.

Bait

Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed, only during the open season for those animals or birds. No other game or protected animals or birds may be used as bait. Your bait should be placed where it is not visible to nontarget species such as owls, hawks and eagles.

Special Management Areas

A special permit is required to trap in the management areas listed below and trapping season closure dates may vary. Contact area headquarters for details.

- ❑ Muskegon State Game Area. Trapping permits are required for beaver and otter and are available at the game area headquarters.
- ❑ Poel Island Waterfowl Refuge, Grand Haven State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Muskegon State Game Area headquarters.
- ❑ Fish Point State Wildlife Area. Trapping permits are available at the wildlife area headquarters.
- ❑ Nayanquing Point and Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Areas. Trapping permits are available at the Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area headquarters.
- ❑ Shiawassee River State Game Area. Trapping permits may be obtained at the St. Charles field office. Trapping permits for the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge may be obtained from the refuge manager.
- ❑ Tobico Marsh Unit of Bay City Recreation Area. Trapping permits are available at the headquarters.
- ❑ Pte. Mouillee State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the game area headquarters.
- ❑ Crow Island State Game Area. Trapping permits are available at the Bay City Operations Service Center.
- ❑ State Parks and Recreation Areas. Check with the park headquarters for current trapping regulations and any restrictions prior to trapping.

Incidental Catches

Trappers occasionally trap nontargeted species. Because it is unlawful to possess animals out of season or those which are protected species, the following procedure allows trappers to help the DNR collect and utilize the biological data available through carcass examination and ensure that pelts are put to good use. Trappers must:

- ❑ Immediately release live protected animals from the trap. Help may be available for advice on the release of endangered species.
- ❑ If the animal is dead or dies in the attempt to release it, attach a Michigan incidental seal to the animal before removing it from the trap. Then transport the carcass in an open manner to the nearest DNR office. The carcass must be surrendered. Michigan incidental seals are available from DNR offices. All incidental seals remain the property of the DNR and must be returned by May 1 each year.

Federal Regulations

All out-of-state shipments of raw hides or furs must be plainly marked on the outside of the package as to the contents. If you wish to export bobcat, otter or bear hides from the United States, you need a federal permit. For details, contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-358-2104.

Fur Harvester Rules

- ❑ Trappers are legally required to check restraining type traps and snares designed to hold animals alive at least once each day in Zones 2 and 3 and at least once within each 48-hour period in Zone 1. It is highly recommended that trappers in Zone 1 check restraining type traps and snares daily.
- ❑ Trappers may use game animals and game birds or their parts, lawfully taken and possessed, only during the open season for those animals or birds.

It is illegal to:

- ❑ Use any kind of a trap other than a foothold, body-gripping or conibear-type trap unless specifically otherwise provided.
- ❑ Use a foothold trap with a jaw spread exceeding a number 2 foothold trap when taking mink or muskrat.
- ❑ Use snares or live traps. Exceptions: See "Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations," page 42, "Live Traps," page 38 and "Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring," page 44.
- ❑ Use a trap with teeth or serrations.
- ❑ Use or have in possession or transport in an area frequented by wild animals a catching device of any kind without permanent etching or a metal tag bearing the user's name and address or Michigan Driver License number. Exception: See "Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations," page 42.
- ❑ Set a steel trap within 50 feet of any water in Zone 1 before Oct. 25, before Nov. 1 in Zone 2 or before Nov. 10 in Zone 3, unless a duffer-type, egg-type, or similarly designed foothold trap for raccoon is used, or a body gripping or conibear trap that is placed 4 feet or more above the ground. See page 7 for zones.
- ❑ Set a body-gripping or conibear-type trap larger than six inches in width (as measured inside the jaw hinges) on dry lands that are publicly owned, or over frozen submerged publicly owned bottomlands or on commercial forest lands (page 31) unless it is four feet or more above the ground or placed in a box or similar container inaccessible to dogs.
- ❑ Molest or disturb the house, hole, nest, burrow or den of a badger, beaver, mink, muskrat or raccoon, whether occupied or not, or molest or destroy a beaver dam, except under a DNR Wildlife Damage Investigation and Control Permit.
- ❑ Set a trap on a beaver dam or lodge unless the trap is submerged below the water.
- ❑ Transport or possess live game taken from the wild, except under a rehabilitation permit or as specified in a Wildlife Damage Investigation and Control Permit.
- ❑ Stake, put out or set a catching device at any time before the day the open season begins.
- ❑ Use a multiple catch or colony trap except for taking muskrats, provided the trap is completely submerged. Colony traps must be constructed of steel and be no larger than six inches high, six inches wide and 24 inches deep. (Nuisance control operators MAY use colony traps for muskrats and other species.)
- ❑ Bring a live raccoon or skunk into Michigan.
- ❑ Shoot a muskrat, beaver, otter, mink, fisher or marten, except under DNR permit. Coyote, fox, raccoon, bobcat and badger may be killed in traps by furtakers using .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms, except for junior fur harvesters with trap-only licenses.

Species	Area	Season Dates					Notes
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
Trapping Seasons							
Muskrat & Mink	Zone 1		Oct. 25 - Jan. 31				
	Zone 2		Nov. 1 - Jan. 31				
	Zone 3		Nov. 10 - Jan. 31				
Raccoon	Zones 1& 2		Oct. 15 - Jan. 31				1
	Zone 3		Nov. 1 - Jan. 31				
Fox and Coyote	Statewide		Oct. 15 - Mar.1				1, 10
Bobcat	Units A & B		Oct. 25 -Mar. 1				2,4,11
	Units C & D			Season Closed			
Badger	Zones 1& 2			Oct. 15 - Nov. 14			3 & 9
	Zone 3			Nov. 1 - Mar. 1			
Fisher/Marten	Units A&B				Dec. 1 - Dec. 15		7,11
Beaver & Otter	Units A,B & C			See page 42			11 (Otter)
Hunting Seasons ⁸							
Bobcat	Units A & B			Dec. 1- Mar. 1			2,4,11
	Unit C				Jan. 1 - Mar. 1		
	Unit D		Jan. 1 - Feb. 1				
Gray & Red Fox	Statewide		Oct. 15 - Mar.1				5
Raccoon	Statewide		Oct. 1 - Jan. 31				1, 5
Coyote	Statewide		Jul. 15 - April 15 Closed in Zones 1 and 2 during Nov. 15 - 30				1, 5, 6

1. Raccoon and coyote may be taken on private property by a property owner or designee all year if they are doing or about to do damage on private property. A license or written permit is not needed.
2. Season bag limit for bobcat is two per person, only one bobcat may be taken by hunting only in Units C or D combined, and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. Harvest in Units C and D is by hunting only.
3. The season bag limit for badger is one per person. Badgers do not require registration.
4. See page 43 for bobcat unit map and bag limit information. Unit E is closed to hunting and trapping.
5. See "Nighttime Raccoon and Predator Hunting" (page 35) for specific regulations governing the hunting of these species at night.
6. Residents possessing a valid small-game license may hunt coyote during the established season.
7. See page 43 for fisher or marten unit map and bag limits.
8. No closed season on opossum, weasel, red squirrel or skunk.
9. In Zone 1, badger may be trapped only in Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee and Ontonagon counties and Alger and Delta counties west of federal forest highway 13.
10. See "Winter Fox and Coyote Non-lethal Snaring" (page 44) for specific regulations governing the trapping of fox and coyote with snares.
11. This species requires a free kill tag. See "Furbearer Kill Tags" (page 38) for details.

Beaver and Otter Trapping Regulations

Statewide Season Limits

Beaver: No limit

Otter: 3 per person. Only 1 may be taken from Unit B, and only 1 from Unit C. Also see Note 3 below.

In addition to the general fur harvester rules on page 40, the following regulations apply to beaver and otter trapping:

- ❑ Only foothold, body-gripping or conibear-type traps may be used for taking beaver and otter. Traps with teeth are illegal. **Exception:** See below for use of snares to take beaver.
- ❑ A catching device of any type must have a permanent etching or metal tag bearing the user's name and address or Michigan Driver License number. If one or more snares are attached to a pole, both the snare and the uppermost end of the pole needs a metal tag.
- ❑ Snares may be used to take beaver from Dec. 1 to March 31, statewide, if the location at which snares are placed is ice-covered. Snares must be made of 1/16-inch or larger cable and must be removed and made inoperative within 24 hours after the close of the beaver season.
- ❑ Up to 10 muskrat pelts may be legally taken in beaver or otter sets.

Notes:

1. The beaver and otter trapping season in Unit A extends through April 30 on designated trout streams only. For a list of these streams in the Upper Peninsula, see FO-210.07 at www.michigan.gov/dnr.
2. The Gladwin Field Dog Trial Area is closed to trapping except for beaver and otter trapping, which is permitted from Nov. 15 through March 15, 2008.
3. Fur harvesters must purchase a new license after March 31. The season limit for otter does not change with the purchase of a new license. Otter taken after March 31 counts against the 2007-2008 otter season bag limit. A free otter kill tag is required. See page 38.

Beaver and otter trapping are closed in the following areas:

Alger: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Benzie: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

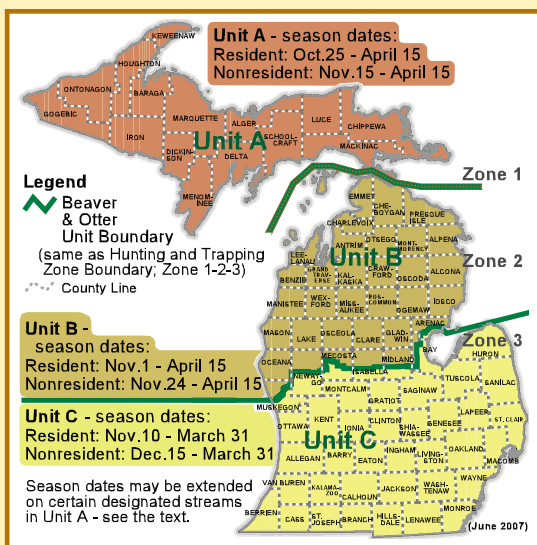
Leelanau: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Mecosta: State land in Colfax Township.

Newaygo: White River and 100 feet from either side of the River from M-37 downstream to the Oceana county line. Pere Marquette River (Big South Branch) and 100 feet from either side of the River from 13 Mile Road downstream to Oceana County.

Schoolcraft: Seney National Wildlife Refuge, closed to otter trapping. Contact the Refuge on possible beaver trapping.

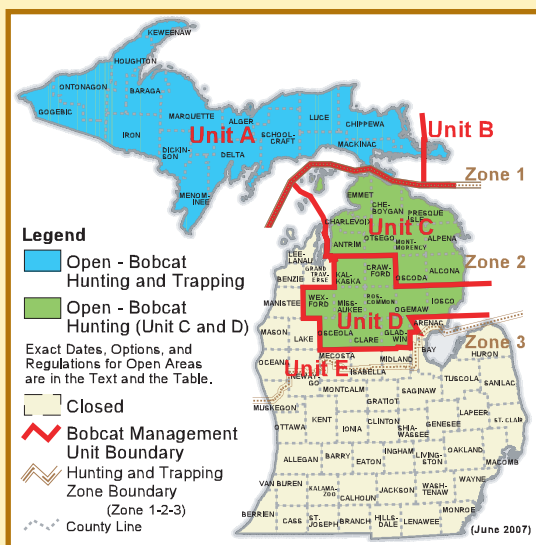
Also see "Special Management Areas" on page 39.



Bobcat Units and Bag Limits

Unit A includes all of the Upper Peninsula, except Drummond Island. Unit B is Drummond Island. Unit C includes Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. Unit D includes Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon and Wexford counties, and Arenac County north of M-61 and west of I-75. Unit E includes remainder of Zone 2 and all counties in Zone 3.

Bag Limits: The season bag limit for bobcat is two per person, only one bobcat may be taken by hunting only in Units C or D combined, and only one bobcat may be taken from Unit B. A free kill tag is required (see page 38). Bobcat trapping season is closed in Units C and D.



Fisher and Marten Units and Bag Limits

Unit A includes all of Baraga, Gogebic, Iron and Ontonagon counties and parts of Dickinson, Houghton and Marquette counties within the following boundaries: Beginning at the junction of US-2 and the Michigan-Wisconsin state line, then northwesterly along the state line to Lake Superior, northeasterly along the shoreline to the Portage Ship Canal, southeasterly along the shoreline to the mouth of the Carp River in Marquette County, upstream along the Carp River to M-28, westerly on M-28 to M-95, southerly on M-95 to US-2 and west to the point of beginning.

Unit B includes all of Zone 1, except Drummond Island and that area of Unit A described above.

Bag Limits: The season limits are one marten per person and three fisher per person, except no person may take more than one fisher in Unit B. Note: A free kill tag is required for fisher, and the free marten trapping permit has been replaced by the free marten kill tag.

